Nifedpine
Reserpine
Guanethidine and anti-diabetic drugs e.g.
Insulin Inj.
Tolbutamide
Glybenclamide
Chlorpropamide
Phenformin
Mettormin are used required.

(h) Under the National Programme for control of Blindness the following Centres have been strengthened for Control of Blindness:

Block level Health Centres	—3716
District Hospital	—404
Ophth. Deptt. of Medical Colleges	— 60
Regional Eye Institutes	— 9
Dr. R.P. Centre, New Delhi.	— 1

(i) Antibiotic Eye ointment tubes for follow up of Trachoma Control.

(j) Some of the medicines are costly.

(k) Essential Medicines used in the Blindness Control Programme are covered under the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1987 announced by the Ministry of Industry, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.

Irregularities in NCERT

1069. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several irregularities have been found in the functioning of the National Council of Educational Research and Training, as indicated in the audit report for this *nstitution*; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to rectify these irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SAHI): (a) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has made certain observations/comments on some aspects of the working of National Council of Educational Research and Training in its Audit Report of 1988 for the year ending March, 1987.

(b) Necessary follow-up action has been initiated by the NCERT on these observations.

Checking the population growth rate

1070. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the population growth rate has shown an increase during the last few years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to arrest this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The natural growth rate of pouplation is obtained as difference between birth and death rates as available from Sample Registration System of the Registrar General, India. The latest estimates of natural growth rate at national level for the last five years are given below:

Year	Natural Growth Rate
1982	2·19%
1983	2·18%
1984	2.13%
1985	2.11%
1986	2.15%